for the development of NH 39 in a phased manner in Manipur.

Development of ports by Rites

131. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether RITES is doing consultancy work in Port development;

(b) if so, the details of such work entrusted to RITES; and

(c) the financial allocations for new Ports or Port development as recommended by RITES in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A number of studies have been entrusted by Major Ports and Maritime States relating to port developments to RITES M/s RITES have been entrusted by the Ministry of Surface Transport the work of conducting a study on Perspective Plan for Indian Port Sector-Vision 2020 which will cover trafic projections critical examination of the existing conditions of the ports, their capacity and contraints, the scope for augmention of capacity in short and long term, identification and removal of other infrastructure contraints etc.

(c) RITES have not finalised the report.

Export of Cotton Fabrics

132. PROF. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the exports of cotton fabrics, particularly higher value earning mill grade cloth, is falling;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether any corrective steps have been taken by Government to arrest the falling exports?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R. L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b) During the period January-October, 97, there has been come decline in the quantitative exports of cotton fabrics, including mill-made cotton fabrics. The declining trend in exports is mainly due to the heightened competition from neighbouring countries and also due to the ongoing anti-dumping proceedings of the European Commission (EC) on import of Unbleached Cotton Fabrics, inter-alia, from India.

(c) Government have extended the facility of concessional duty imports of certain items of machinery used in the weaving, processing and garment industries with a view to encouraging exports of higher value added textile products, including mill-made cotton fabrics. Besides, a number of measures are being taken to boost the exports of textiles, including mill-made cotton fabrics, such as encouraging exporters to participate in buyer-seller meets, fairs and exhibitions; special arrangements for duty free import of raw materials for export production; ensuring increased availability of export credit etc. The Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council has been contesting the EC's anti-dumping proceedings and have engaged a Belgian law firm, specialising in anti-dumping cases, for effectively defending the case.

Rehabilitation of textiles mill workers rendered jobless

133. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT:
SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to rehabilitate the textile mill workers who have become jobless due to closure of the mills;

(b) if so, what are the provisions of these plans;

(c) whether Government have extended any assistance to the Gujarat Government in terms of money;

(d) whether Government have received any request from the State for retraining displaced textiles workers; and

(e) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has established Textile Workers Rehabilitation Fund Scheme (TWRFS) to provide interim relief to workers rendered jobless due to permanent/ partial closure of mills. An amount of Rs. 10.21 crores has been allocated under this Scheme during the year 1997-98.

(c) Central Government has not provided any funds to the State Government of Gujarat from the TWRFS. However, an amount of Rs. 74.72 crore has been disbursed as an interim relief under the TWRFS to 36354 workers of mills in Gujarat since the inception of the scheme.

(d) and (e) Gandhi Labour Institute, Ahmedabad has been approved as a Nodal Agency by Government of India for retraining of the rationalised workers. Funds from National Renewal Fund (NRF) are being released to Gandhi Labour Institute for counselling and retraining of the rationalised workers. However, no funds have been released to Govt. of Gujarat from NRF.

मध्य प्रदेश में रेशम उत्पादन

134. **श्री राघवजी:** क्या वस्त्र मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या केन्द्र सरकार ने मध्य प्रदेश में रेशम उत्पादन में वृद्धि करने के लिए किसी योजना का अनुमोदन किया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है, यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं; और

(ग) इन योजनाओं पर वर्ष-वार कुल कितनी धनराशि खर्च की जाएगी तथा इन योजनाओं के पूरा होने पर राज्य में रेशम उत्पादन में कितनी वृद्धि होगी?

वस्त्र मंत्री (श्री आर॰एल॰ जालप्पा): (क) से (ग) भारत सरकार ने 9वीं योजनावधि के दौरान क्रियान्वयन के लिए मध्य प्रदेश सहित विभिन्न राज्यों में सामान्य किस्म की 27 योजनाओं की स्वीकृति दी है। इन क्षेत्रों के अंतर्गत विशिष्ट परियोजनाओं की मध्य प्रदेश राज्य से अभी प्रतीक्षा है। राज्यों के लिए इन योजनाओं के अंतर्गत कोई लक्ष्य निर्धारित नहीं किए जाते हैं।

इसके अतिरिक्त मध्य प्रदेश राज्य सरकार ओ ई सी एफ की सहायता से तसर का विकास करने की एक परियोजना क्रियान्वित कर रही है। यह परियोजना वर्ष 1998 और 2004 के बीच 7 वर्षों की अवधि के लिए क्रियान्वित की जाएगी जिसका परिव्यय 109.98 करोड़ रु॰ है। परियोजना का उद्देश्य परियोजना के शुरू होने से 4 वर्ष के पास तसर अपरिष्कृत रेशम का उत्पादन 75 टन तथा तसर स्पन रेशम यार्न का उत्पादन 22.5 टन प्रतिवर्ष तक बढ़ाने का है। परियोजना क्षेत्रों में मध्य प्रदेश के 3 जिले अर्थात रायगढ़, बिलासपुर तथा सरगुजा शामिल हैं। इस परियोजना के अंतर्गत लाभभोगियों की कुल संख्या 4000 है तथा रोजगार सृजन 10,000 है।

Participation in World Textiles Fairs

3. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has been invited to participate by the Heimtextile fair authorities as a "partner country at Frankfurt fair" to be held during January 14 to 17, 1998 as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 27th October, 1997;

(b) the world textiles fairs in which India has so far participated during the last 3 years, countrywise indicating the foreign exchange earned thereby; and

(c) what incentives/concessions Government propose to offer to Indian exporters who are working hard to present the Indian textiles heritage abroad particularly to those are participating at Frankfurt fair?